

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device comprising:

a longitudinal axis;

a distal member;

a proximal member; and

a sleeve extending at least between the distal member and the proximal member,

the sleeve having a proximal gripping portion for pulling the sleeve upwardly to shorten an axial extent located between the distal member and the proximal member.

2. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 1 wherein, on release of the gripping portion, the shortened axial extent between the distal member and the proximal member is substantially maintained without a requirement for an additional locking device.

3. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the proximal gripping portion is provided at a proximal end portion of the sleeve.

4. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the gripping portion is reinforced by a reinforcing arrangement.
5. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the reinforcing arrangement comprises a gripping ring.
6. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the gripping ring is mounted to the sleeve.
7. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein the sleeve is fixed to the proximal member at a first end portion and is movable over the proximal member at a second end portion.
8. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sleeve is axially slidably over the proximal member at the second end portion.
9. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 wherein the second end portion of the sleeve is slidingly received over a portion of the proximal member to allow relative movement between the sleeve and the proximal member to shorten the axial extent of the sleeve located between the distal member and the proximal member.

10. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the portion of the proximal member that slidably receives the sleeve includes an outer portion of the proximal member.

11. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the second end portion of the sleeve is biased against the proximal member.

12. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein the proximal member is located within the sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1 wherein the proximal member forms a part of a securing arrangement configured to substantially fix the axial extent of the sleeve located between the distal member and the proximal member at a desired length.

14. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends from the proximal member, around the distal member, and has a return section outside of the proximal member, the return section providing the proximal gripping portion.

15. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein the distal member comprises a distal ring.

16. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the distal ring is an O-ring.

17. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein the distal ring is formed of an elastomeric material.

18. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1 wherein the proximal member comprises a proximal ring.

19. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the proximal ring is an O-ring.

20. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 18 ~~or 19~~ wherein the proximal ring is relatively rigid with respect to the distal ring.

21. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1 wherein the sleeve is of a pliable material.

22. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 21~~ claim 1 further comprising a guide member for a proximal portion of the sleeve.

23. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the sleeve extends between the guide member and the proximal member.

24. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~claims 22 or 23~~ claim 22 wherein the guide member comprises a receiver for the proximal member.

25. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 22 to 24~~ claim 22 wherein the guide member has an inwardly facing recess defining a receiver for the proximal member.

26. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the proximal member comprises a proximal ring and the recess has a shape which is complementary to that of the proximal ring.

27. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 26 wherein the recess is substantially C-shaped in transverse cross section.

28. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 22 to 28~~ claim 22 further comprising a lock for locking the guide member to the proximal member.

29. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 28 wherein the guide member is engagable with the proximal member to provide the lock.

30. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 28 ~~or 29~~ wherein the guide member is an interference fit with the proximal member.

31-75. (Canceled)

76. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 75~~ claim 1 wherein the device comprises a release arrangement for releasing the device from a retracting configuration.

77. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 76 wherein the release arrangement comprises a pulling device.

78. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 77 wherein the pulling device is coupled to the distal member.

79. (Currently Amended) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in ~~claims 77 or 78~~ claim 77 wherein the pulling device comprises a pull cord.

80. (Original) A wound protector and retractor device as claimed in claim 79 wherein the pull cord comprises a ribbon.

81-101. (Canceled)

102. (Original) A method for retracting an incision comprising the steps of:

- making an incision in a patient;
- providing a wound retractor comprising a longitudinal axis, a distal member, a proximal member, and a sleeve extending at least between the distal member and the proximal member, the sleeve having a proximal gripping portion;
- inserting the distal member through the incision such that the sleeve extends through the incision and the proximal member is located outside of the incision;
- gripping the gripping portion of the sleeve and pulling the sleeve upwardly to shorten an axial extent of the sleeve located between the distal member and the proximal member.

103. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein, on release of the gripping portion, the shortened axial extent of the sleeve between the distal member and the proximal member is substantially maintained.

104. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 102 ~~or 103~~ wherein the sleeve is fixed to the proximal member at a first end portion and ~~extending~~ extends over the proximal member at a second end portion, and the method comprises moving the sleeve over the proximal member as the sleeve is pulled upwardly to shorten the axial extent of the sleeve located between the distal member and the proximal member.

105. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 104 wherein the step of moving the sleeve relative to the proximal member includes sliding a portion of the sleeve against a radially outer portion of the proximal member.

106. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 102 to 105~~ claim 102 wherein a portion of the sleeve located between the distal member and the proximal member includes two material layers.

107. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 106 wherein the sleeve is wrapped around the distal member to form the two material layers.

108-134. (Canceled)

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace the informal drawings in this application with the 52 sheets of formal drawings filed herewith (Figs. 1-72). If the formal drawings for any reason are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.